

WHAT IS CLAIMED AND DESIRED TO BE SECURED BY LETTERS  
PATENT OF THE UNITED STATES IS:

1. An electronic device, comprising:

5 an radio unit configured to communicate with a network;

at least one memory device configured to store application  
and system programs; and

10 a processing unit coupled to said radio unit and said at  
least one memory device, said processing unit configured to run  
the application and system programs;

wherein at least one of the application and system programs  
include a software enabled switch for enabling and disabling the  
radio unit.

5 2. The electronic device according to Claim 1, wherein:

at least one of said application and system programs is a  
program that utilizes the radio; and

15 at least one of said application and system programs  
comprises a notification program configured to notify a user if  
the radio is disabled upon invoking a program that utilizes that  
radio.

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3. The electronic device according to Claim 2, wherein said notification program is further configured to give the user an option to either,

5 continue executing the application or system program and automatically enable the radio device, or

discontinue execution of the application or system program and leaving the radio disabled.

4. The electronic device according to Claim 1, wherein:

40 said device further comprises a display screen; and at least one of said system and application programs are configured to generate a graphical user interface on the display screen having at least one soft button programmed to enable and disable said radio device.

5. The electronic device according to Claim 4, wherein said graphical user interface is a GUI having a first soft button entitled "RADIO ON," and a second soft button labeled "Radio OFF," and an enablement status of the radio device is 20 indicated by the corresponding soft button highlighted in one of bold, inverse video, flashing, or other indicators.

6. The electronic device according to Claim 1, further comprising a hard button programmed to enable and disable the

radio device, wherein said hard button is a toggle switch that is activated by engaging the hard button for a predetermined length of time.

5        7. The electronic device according to Claim 6, wherein said hard button has at least one additional program invoked by pressing the hard button for a time period less than said predetermined length of time.

10      8. The electronic device according to Claim 6, wherein said predetermined length of time is approximately 1 second.

15      9. The electronic device according to Claim 1, wherein:  
          said software enabled switch includes,  
          a user interface with a drop down menu having user selectable options for Radio On, Radio Off, and Schedule, and  
          programming configured to implement an option selected by the user.

20      10. The electronic device according to Claim 1, wherein the application and system programs include a scheduling application that provides user modifiable start and stop times that indicate when the radio unit is to enabled and disabled.

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11. A notification program for notifying a user of a status of an RF device in an RF capable device, wherein the RF enabled device includes a processing unit for running applications and a user interface, said notification program comprising:

an RF procedure alarm that identifies a program that has been invoked that requires the RF capabilities of the RF capable device;

10 a check procedure configured to check an enablement status of the RF device;

15 a user interface procedure configured to display a status of the RF device and provide the user with an option to continue with the program requiring RF capabilities and automatically enable the RF device or discontinue the program requiring RF capabilities without enabling the RF device;

wherein:

20 the RF procedure alarm wakes the notification program from a "sleep" mode and the notification program checks the enablement status of the RF device using said check procedure, and

if the RF device is not enabled, the notifications program invokes the user interface procedure.

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12. A method of notifying a user of an RF enablement status of a device having RF capabilities, comprising the steps of:

5 identifying the invocation of a mechanism requiring access to the RF capabilities;

determining the RF enablement status of the RF device;

if the RF device is not enabled:

10 prompting a user of the device if the mechanism is to be granted RF access, and

retrieving a user input regarding whether RF access should be granted to the mechanism requiring RF access;

15 if the user input indicates the mechanism is to be granted RF access:

automatically enabling the RF device, and

allowing the mechanism requiring RF access to continue and access the RF device; and

20 if the user input indicates the mechanism should not be granted RF access, then, shutting down the mechanism requiring RF access without enabling the RF device.